

Appl. No. : 09/785,944
Filed : February 16, 2001

which the Examiner states, "Fermann [US 5,627,848] discloses the claimed invention except for the multi-mode optical fiber doped with a gain medium and positioned along said cavity axis
." Thus, Fermann et al does not teach a "multi-mode optical fiber doped with a gain medium
." While Stock et al may disclose such a fiber, Stock et al does not anticipate the present application, as discussed above. Thus, without Stock et al, Fermann et al does not make the present invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

On the basis of the elimination of the Stock et al. reference as prior art, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

The drawings have been amended at the request of the Examiner.

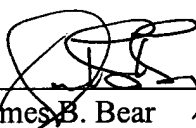
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

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